

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 09105 271559Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
NSC-05 /064 W
-----281000Z 083929 /10

R 271544Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8631
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USLO SACLANT
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USNMR SHAPE
CINC LANT NORFOLK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09105

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, MARR, PFOR, GW
SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF SENIOR MILITARY POSTS IN NATO
REF: USNATO 03987 DTG 241932Z MAY 77

1. EMBASSY BONN CAN NOT AGREE WITH UK PERMREP KILLICK'S
SUGGESTION THAT FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER'S CALL FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 09105 271559Z

GERMANY TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SENIOR NATO MILITARY
COMMAND ASSIGNMENTS WAS MERELY DESIGNED TO PLACATE
THE GERMAN MILITARY AND THAT LEBER HIMSELF MIGHT HAVE NO
INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT. LEBER'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
POSITIONS FOR GERMAN GENERALS AND ADMIRALS IN NATO
RECEIVED FULL AND APPROVING COVERAGE IN THE GERMAN PRESS.
NO NEWSPAPER TOOK EXCEPTION TO LEBER'S POSITION THAT THE

FRG SOUGHT NO DIMINUTION IN THE NUMBER OF U.S. GENERALS AND ADMIRALS HOLDING SENIOR NATO POSITIONS BUT RATHER A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF BRITAINS HOLDING THESE POSITIONS. ALL GERMAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED THE "ANOMALY" THAT THE UK HAS AS MANY SENIOR MILITARY POSITIONS AS THE U.S. (I.E., 26) WHILE THE FRG, WHICH PROVIDES THE LARGEST SINGLE CONVENTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO NATO, HAS ONLY TEN. THE UK HAS A POOR IMAGE BOTH WITH THE GERMAN PUBLIC AND WITH THE GERMAN MILITARY BECAUSE OF REPEATED BRITISH MILITARY CUTS AND WHAT THE GERMANS CONSIDER TO HAVE BEEN SHARP PRACTICE BY THE UK IN TRYING TO BLAME GERMANY FOR THE UK'S DECISION TO PROCEED WITH NIMROD RATHER THAN THE NATO AWACS.

2. ONCE MINISTER LEBER HAD RAISED THE MATTER ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE NATO DPC MEETING, MAJOR GENERAL JUERGEN BRANDT, HEAD OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, HELD A PRESS BRIEFING ON THE SUBJECT. IT WAS THE GENERAL'S BACK-GROUNDER WHICH WAS USED AS THE BASIS FOR THE PRESS COVERAGE IN FRG NEWSPAPERS. AN EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH ONE OF GENERAL BRANDT'S OFFICERS AND WITH DR. MARTIN BLOCH, MINISTER LEBER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT. BOTH TOOK THE POSITION THAT GERMANY EXPECTED NO IMMEDIATE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF SENIOR BRITISH OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO NATO COMMANDS BUT THAT THE FRG EXPECTED MANY OF THEM TO BE REPLACED BY GERMAN GENERALS AND ADMIRALS ONCE THEIR TOUR OF DUTY HAD COME TO AN END. BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG DID NOT SEEK TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN SENIOR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 09105 271559Z

OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO NATO COMMANDS. THE EMBOFF MADE AN OFF-THE-CUFF REMARK TO THE EFFECT THAT EXPERIENCE SEEMED TO SHOW THAT THE POSITIONS IN NATO NEVER SEEMED TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM ONE NATION TO ANOTHER BUT THAT NEW POSITIONS WERE ESTABLISHED TO CORRECT ANY IMBALANCES. BOTH GERMAN OFFICIALS EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT MINISTER LEBER WOULD VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE ANY SUCH SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT IMBALANCE PROBLEM.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: MOST OFFICIALS IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, PRIVATELY AGREE THAT THE UK DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT TODAY CONSISTS LARGELY OF GENERALS, ADMIRALS AND BANDS. EVEN SO, THEY DON'T WANT ALL THESE UK GENERALS AND ADMIRALS FILLING SENIOR NATO POSITIONS.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: - COMMITTEE MEETINGS, - REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, - INFORMATION SYSTEMS, - MEETING AGENDA, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN09105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770191-0729
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770511/aaaaajip.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6a36088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2344011
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLOCATION OF SENIOR MILITARY POSTS IN NATO
TAGS: MPOL, MARR, PFOR, GE, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6a36088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009